

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, before the title, please insert the following heading:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, after the title, please insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

Page 1, at line 11, please insert the following heading:

Description of the Background

Page 5, at line 11, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, at line 28, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of a double T-support;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of a covered double T-support;

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view of a U-shaped support;

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of a covered U-shaped support;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of a sequence of mass transfer trays; and

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of the mass transfer trays of Figure 5 having coverings at spray shadow areas of the trays.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 14-20 of the specification as follows:

-- However, a disadvantage of double-T supports is that, for example, the parts of the surface of double-T supports which are indicated in ~~figure~~ Figure 1 by the number (1) and are in the spray shadow of the liquid droplets which, as the gaseous stream moving

upward passes through the passages of the mass transfer tray below, are entrained from the liquid phase present thereon and sprayed substantially vertically upward. Figure 2 shows how this disadvantage can be remedied by simply mounting a cover (2), without an additional spray nozzle being required for polymerization-inhibited reflux. --